

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated May 20, 2005, and present the following remarks for consideration. Claims 14-19, 22-31, and 34-53 are pending. Claims 14-19, 25, 28-31, 37, 38, 40-43, 47, 48 and 50 have been amended. Claims 20, 21, 32 and 33 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 51-53 have been added. Claims 14-17, 29, 41, and 51-53 are independent claims. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application are respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 14-50 based on non-statutory type double patenting as containing every element of claims 1-9, 11-20, 22-26, 28-33, 35-37, 39 and 40 of U.S. Patent No. 6,665,829 (“the ‘829 patent”) and asserted that the claims were, therefore, anticipated by the ‘829 patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the ‘829 patent and the present application are commonly owned. In the interest of expediting prosecution of this application without prejudice, a terminal disclaimer is submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) to overcome this rejection. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

§ 112 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as single means or step claims. With this paper, claims 14-16 have been amended to recite a second element. It is respectfully submitted that the grounds for the rejection have been overcome. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

New Claims


New claims 51-53 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that these claims, which contain limitations similar to claims 14-19, 22-31 and 34-50, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicant submits that claims 14-19, 22-31, and 34-53 of the present application are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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